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George Economic Development Bills Pass Senate

Senator's bills will promote and assist business development in Kalamazoo area

LANSING- Senator Tom George, R-Texas Township, today announced the passage of Senate Bills 239 and 240, which he sponsored. This legislation makes it permissive, within state law, for counties to loan money to local governments and nonprofit organizations for infrastructure improvements needed to entice businesses to the area.

Senate Bill 240 would allow counties to set up revolving loan funds, the money from which would be used to promote and assist business development in the area. Senate Bill 239 would allow counties to grant money to nonprofit organizations to use for local economic development.

"I am pleased that my colleagues also see the importance of these bills", George said. "It shows that the Senate recognizes the importance of giving all the tools that we can to local governments to help them recruit and retain jobs."

Last year's Kalamazoo County Board requested this legislation to enable them to assist local economic development projects.

Senate Bills 239 and 240 passed with unanimous bipartisan support in the Senate. The bills will now be sent to the House of Representatives for consideration.